

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1-121. (canceled)

122. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 39 having at least 95% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 119;
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 119, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 118;
- (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 118;
- or
- (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203042,

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

123. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 39 having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 119;
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 119, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 118;
- (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 118;
- or
- (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203042,

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

124. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 119;

- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 119, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 118;
- (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 118;
- or
- (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203042.

125. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:119.

126. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:119, lacking its associated signal peptide.

127-128. canceled.

129. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:118.

130. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 118.

131. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203042.

132-134. canceled.

135. (previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 124.

136. (previously presented) The vector of Claim 135, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

137. (previously presented) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 135.

138. (previously presented) The host cell of Claim 137, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

139-145. canceled.